

(812)

SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

**PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND
CENTRAL PROVINCES,**

Received up to 24th June, 1871.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

THE *Akmal-ul-Akhbār* of the 14th June complains that robberies and dacoities still prevail in Delhi to an alarming extent. It is remarked that the present age has eclipsed the fame of the ages which are proverbially notorious for such crimes. Bad characters have it all their own way, and pursue their lawless career in broad daylight. Robberies are boldly committed on public thoroughfares; and no person can safely go out of the city with anything of value about him. A lumbar, named Sahib Singh, who was travelling on horseback with a gold chain worth some Rs. 300 or Rs. 400, and Rs. 125 in cash, was murdered by a party of robbers near Ruh Ullah Khan's Serai, a distance of three *kos* from the city. Inquiries are being made by the police, but no trace of the robbers has yet been found. To mention another instance, a person who was passing out of the city with a sum of Rs. 25 and a bundle of safflower was plundered by robbers, and barely escaped with life.

The *Mālwa Akhbār* of the same date states, on the authority of the *Umdat-ul-Akhbār*, that in Budaon petitions are lodged in courts on foolscap instead of stamp-paper; postage-stamps of an equal value with the stamp-fees required being affixed.

The *Umdat-ul-Akhbār* approves of the plan, and thinks that if it be enforced in all places a good deal of expense will be saved to Government.

It is added that cholera and small-pox are prevalent in the city.

The *Ab-i-Hayât-i-Hind* of the 15th June asserts that from 1st to 11th May, several violent hurricanes occurred in Fyzabad, in consequence of which a large number of boats were sunk in the Ghogra. Similar disastrous accidents happened in other places—fire in one, famine in another, pestilence in a third, and earthquake in a fourth. May God keep mankind from such visitations!

The same paper publishes a long letter from a correspondent at Dhaulpore, containing a detail of the reforms introduced into the administration of the state under the auspices of Moonshee Abdul Ghani, Minister of the State, and Pundit Ravi Shankar, head of the Legislative Council. All disorder and mismanagement in administration have ceased to exist, and darkness has given place to light. At a recent visit, the Minister paid to the Governor-General's Agent for Eastern Rajpootana at Bhurtpore, to show the administration papers prepared during his time, that officer expressed his approval of the way in which the management of the state is now conducted, and gave great credit to the Minister for it. The following is a brief detail of the improvements and reforms that have been introduced into the administration:—

(a) All taxes which were before levied from the people have been abolished, and a light duty in the shape of stamp-fees has been substituted in place of them all.

(b) The work of the courts, which was formerly an anomalous mixture on account of the combination of the civil, criminal, and other processes all in one, has been distributed in distinct departments under separate officers. By this arrangement cases which before remained pending for years are decided within two weeks from the date of their institution.

(c) The inconveniences which travellers and merchants had to suffer in having their goods exposed to search have been removed by the formation of suitable and judicious rules.

(d) Robbery and plunder have been finally checked. Guards have been stationed at the different outposts, and streets and highways are regularly patrolled; in consequence of which passengers travel from place to place with perfect security at any hour of the night.

(e) Wells are being sunk at public roads where there were none for the convenience of travellers.

(f) The pay of all *employés* of the State is disbursed month by month, instead of being suffered to remain in arrears.

(g) The reports of thannahdars and tehseeldars are laid before the Maharajah, and fitting orders are passed on them. If it is found in any case that a criminal has been detained in custody longer than three days, the officials are immediately called to account.

(h) Dispensaries have been erected in various localities, where patients, who before experienced the greatest difficulty in getting physic, and often died for want of proper medical treatment, are properly looked after.

(i) Schools have been opened in different places for the benefit of the people, a thing unknown before.

(j) The prisoners in the jail are provided with a uniform, as in the jails in the British dominions, and are employed in useful and profitable trades, such as carpet-weaving, &c.

(k) Merchants who import goods from foreign cities get payment at once, instead of being detained for months.

(l) Relief works have been set in operation to enable poor people to earn their living by manual labour.

(m) Special attention is paid to the discipline and management of the army. A hospitable reception is given to all European gentlemen who happen to pass by the Maharajah's territory.

The *Akhbár-i-Alam* of the same date has an article on the term of limitation in law. The writer begins with stating that in order to facilitate the procedure of business and to

reduce it to an approved and proper system, Government has laid down separate rules and regulations for the several departments of administration. It is with the same object that a term has been prescribed for the institution of the different kinds of suits connected with the Civil Courts. Several regulations were formerly in force on this subject, which were superseded by Acts XIV. and XXXII. of 1869, and Act XIV. of 1862. A new act has now been framed, which is to come into force from July next. This is Act IX. of 1870. Generally speaking, the act is good and unobjectionable; but certain provisions of it might be amended, and especially Section 4 of Appendix II., which limits the term of institution of suits for the possession of immovable property to twelve years, on the expiration of which the owner is not entitled to sue. The writer takes exception to this, and fails to see the wisdom or justice of such limitation. Twelve years is not a very long period, and under many circumstances may pass away unnoticed. Many men, for instance, who go abroad for the sake of employment, for purposes of trade, or for other objects, and have to leave their immovable property in possession of others, are sometimes prevented by poverty, sickness, or other causes from returning to their native city for years together. Is it just or reasonable that these men should be dispossessed of what is rightly their own, and what they can prove by legal writs and other proofs to be their lawful property, simply because of their having placed it in charge of others, and not being able to take it back within twelve years? Why should the expiration of twelve years nullify a person's rights to his property?

For the above reasons, the writer thinks it improper that a term should be prescribed by law for the institution of suits of the kind. Government has laid down this rule as a mere formal matter, and has apparently forgot to bear in mind that such of the people of this country as are covetous or are actuated by dishonest motives will take advantage of the limitation term in question for usurping other's property. In Native states

where no such term is prescribed, no evil ensues in the settlement of cases; whereas in the British dominions the fixing of the term causes much harm and deprives many of the people of their rights. In the writer's opinion, there would be no harm if no such term were prescribed, and, while Government would lose nothing, people would be greatly benefited.

The *Urdú Akhbár* of the 16th June, under the heading *Purneah*, asserts that since the departure of Mr. Coburn, Superintendent of Police, from the district, the management of the police has fallen in such disorder that bad characters have gained much influence. In the short space of three or four months some forty or fifty dacoities have been committed, not to mention thefts and other petty offences, of which there is no end. Only fifteen days ago bold dacoities were committed, all at once, in the three houses of a village on the same night, and a large amount of property was robbed.

The *Lawrence Gazette* of the same date states that the Superintendent of Pensions, Madras, has issued a circular order to his subordinates stating that, as the majority of the pensioners had grown old and scarcely gave promise of living long, it was feared lest something might be going wrong, and deceit might be practised; and that in order to guard against the danger it was proper for them all carefully and scrupulously to compare the name, address, &c., of the pensioners with the descriptive roll, and to examine attentively the pension certificates.

The *Lawrence Gazette* approves of the directions, and is of opinion that similar directions should be issued throughout British India, care being of course taken to see that poor pensioners suffer no unnecessary annoyance at the hands of the employés of the paying offices.

The *Panjábi Akhbár* of the 17th June, in its column of local news, writes that the removal of the dispensary from the city (Lahore) to Anarkali has subjected the people to much trouble and annoyance. The object was to amalgamate the

dispensaries at the two places. Since a local tax is raised from the zemindars specially for such purposes as the maintenance of dispensaries, there is no reason why the public should suffer all this trouble. In the writer's opinion the best plan will be to open a branch dispensary in the city, in order that the people may be saved the trouble of going out of the city for medical assistance.

The *Kavi Vachan Sudhá* of the 18th June states, on the authority of the *Prayág Dút*, that the Bengalees at Allahabad are all dissatisfied with the district authorities of that place.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Ab-i-Haydt-i-Hind* of the 15th June praises Baboo Harish Chandra, a gentleman of Benares, for his liberality in matters connected with the welfare of his brethren, and sets him up as an example of a Native gentleman who devotes his money in such a way as to be really serviceable to his countrymen; unlike the majority of the Natives, who waste their wealth in sensual and frivolous pursuits. The Baboo is specially praised for having established a school, which he maintains at a great expense. A public distribution of prizes took place in the school on the Queen's birthday. The prizes were distributed by Baboo Shiva Prasad, C.S.I., Inspector, D. P. I., in presence of a large number of Hindoo gentlemen who had assembled on the occasion.

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* of the 16th June notices with pleasure the establishment of a society at Azimgurh, bearing the name of Azimgurh Debating Club, under the auspices of the Deputy Inspector of Schools. Rajah Mohammed Salamut Khan has been chosen president of the club, the Deputy Inspector, its founder, to be secretary, and the Settlement Deputy Collector, the Tehseeldar, and the Headmaster of the Church Mission English School, to be members. The club has already had two meetings, the discussions carried on in which promise well. The *Allygurh Institute Gazette* praises the Deputy Inspector for establishing the club, and remarks that this is not

the first time he has given proof of taking an interest in such matters. He formerly established a similar society at Jubbulpore under the name of the Mutual Improvement Association, which did much good to the people.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Ab-i-Hayât-i-Hind* of the 15th June comments on the prediction of London astronomers, which has made a great noise in these days, viz., that a fiery comet will approach so near the earth before the termination of the current year that its effects will be ruinous to the world. This prediction is interpreted by the editor of a newspaper as a sign that the day of judgment is near at hand, a statement which the society under whose supervision the *Ab-i-Hayât-i-Hind* is conducted proves to be false on the authority of the Hindoo scriptures. According to these, the present age is *Kali-yug*, whose duration is 432,000 years, out of which 4,972 only have elapsed, so that 427,028 years yet remain. It is added, that this calculation is the result of deep thought, and ought to command universal belief.

The *Khair Khwâh-i-Panjâb* for the 3rd week of June praises the Maharajah of Bulrampore for taking an active interest in promoting the welfare of his subjects, and for devoting a large portion of his revenues in objects of public good. As a recent instance of this, it is stated that the Maharajah has proposed to post a Native physician in each town and village in his territories. A notification has been issued calling on persons who would like to be candidates for the post of physician to submit their applications with testimonials to the Maharajah direct. The salary promised is Rs. 10 per mensem.

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, viz. :—

No.	NAME OF NEWSPAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE, 1871.		DATE OF RECEIPT, 1871.	
1	<i>Vidyá Vilás,</i> ...	Jammu, ...	June	3rd	June	18th
2	<i>Saharanpore Gazette,</i> ...	Saharanpore, ...	"	5th	"	20th
3	<i>Naiyir-i-Akbar,</i> ...	Bijnour, ...	"	8th	"	19th
4	<i>Muir Gazette (Urdú),</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	8th	"	20th
5	<i>Jalwa-i-Tár,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	8th	"	21st
6	<i>Rohilkhund Akhbár,</i> ...	Moradabad, ...	"	10th	"	20th
7	<i>Ditto Samáchar Patra,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	10th	"	20th
8	<i>Meerut Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	10th	"	21st
9	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...	Gwalior, ...	"	11th	"	18th
10	<i>Jagat Samáchar,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	12th	"	21st
11	<i>Márwár Gazette,</i> ...	Jodhpore, ...	"	12th	"	22nd
12	<i>Oudh Akhbár,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	"	13th	"	18th
13	<i>Málwá Akhbár,</i> ...	Indour, ...	"	14th	"	19th
14	<i>Akmal-ul-Akhbár,</i> ...	Delhi, ...	"	14th	"	20th
15	<i>Samaya Vinod,</i> ...	Nynee Tal, ...	"	15th	"	20th
16	<i>Ab-i-Hayat-i-Hind,</i> ...	Agra, ...	"	15th	"	20th
17	<i>Akhbár-i-Alam,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	15th	"	20th
18	<i>Naiyir-i-Akbar,</i> ...	Bijnour, ...	"	15th	"	23rd
19	<i>Allygurh Institute Gazette,</i> ...	Allygurh, ...	"	16th	"	19th
20	<i>Najm-ul-Akhbár,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	16th	"	20th
21	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	16th	"	20th
22	<i>Urdú Akhbár,</i> ...	Delhi, ...	"	16th	"	20th
23	<i>Rajpútána Social Science Congress.</i>	Jaipore, ...	"	16th	"	21st
24	<i>Urdú Delhi Gazette,</i> ...	Agra, ...	"	17th	"	20th
25	<i>Majma-ul-Bahrain,</i> ...	Ludhiana, ...	"	17th	"	20th
26	<i>Koh-i-Núr,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	"	17th	"	20th
27	<i>Panjábi Akhbár,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	17th	"	20th
28	<i>Kavi Vachan Sudhá,</i> ...	Benares, ...	"	18th	"	21st
29	<i>Gwalior Gazette,</i> ...	Gwalior, ...	"	18th	"	24th
30	<i>Kárnámah,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	"	19th	"	22nd
31	<i>Dabdaba-i-Sikandar,</i> ...	Rampore, ...	"	19th	"	23rd
32	<i>Nasim-i-Jaunpore,</i> ...	Jaunpore, ...	"	20th	"	23rd
33	<i>Shola-i-Tár,</i> ...	Cawnpore, ...	"	20th	"	24th
34	<i>Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq,</i> ...	Allygurh, ...	"	20th	"	24th
35	<i>Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb,</i> ...	Gujaranwalla, ...	"	3rd week.	"	20th

ALLAHABAD:
The 27th June, 1871.

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